

Please amend the claims to read as shown below:<sup>2</sup>

28. (Amended) A stage unit comprising:

a sample stage that holds a sample;

a stage driving mechanism that drives the sample stage in at least one direction;

a first transmitting member to which at least one part of the stage driving mechanism is connected and a reaction force caused by driving the sample stage is transmitted; and

a first damping member that is arranged on the first transmitting member and damps a vibration of the first transmitting member, the first damping member being arranged at a position where a maximum strain of the first transmitting member is caused.

35. (Twice Amended) A stage unit according to Claim 28, further comprising:

a stage base that movably supports the sample stage and is supported independently of the first transmitting member.

36. (Amended) A stage unit according to Claim 28, wherein

the sample stage comprises:

a coarse stage that moves in the one direction; and

a fine stage that holds the sample and is movable relative to the coarse stage.

37. (Amended) A stage unit according to Claim 36, further comprising:

<sup>2</sup> The changes to the claims are shown using underscoring and bracketing in the attachment hereto.

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concluded

a second transmitting member in which a reaction force caused by driving the fine stage is transmitted via the coarse stage;

a linear actuator that drives the second transmitting member in the one direction;

a second damping member that is arranged on the second transmitting member and damps a vibration of the second transmitting member due to the reaction force caused by driving the fine stage; and

a first controller that controls the stage driving mechanism and the linear actuator so that the coarse stage and the second transmitting member integrally move in the one direction.

39. (Amended) A stage unit according to Claim 37, wherein

the second damping member is an electro-mechanical transducer that generates a mechanical strain by applying an electric energy, and

the stage unit further comprises a second controller that controls the electro-mechanical transducer in accordance with the reaction force caused by driving the fine stage.

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40. (Amended) A stage unit according to Claim 39, wherein

the second controller controls the electro-mechanical transducer based on an instructing value of a drive force of the fine stage.

Please add the following new Claims 55-60:

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55. (New) An exposure apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein

the damping member comprises a piezo-electric element.

56. (New) An exposure apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein the damping member comprises an electro-mechanism transducer that generates a mechanical strain.

57. (New) An exposure apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein the damping member is arranged at a position where a maximum strain of the first supporting frame is caused.

58. (New) A stage apparatus having a movable stage, comprising:  
a counter stage that moves in a direction opposite to the movable stage in accordance with a movement of the movable stage;  
a first supporting frame that movably supports the counter stage; and  
a damping member that is arranged on the first supporting frame and damps a vibration of the first supporting frame.

59. (New) A stage apparatus according to Claim 58, further comprising:  
a base that is different from the first supporting frame to movably support the movable stage.

60. (New) A stage apparatus according to Claim 58, wherein the damping member is arranged at a position where a maximum strain of the first supporting frame is caused.